

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2003/012861

I. Basis of the report1. With regard to the elements of the international application:^{*} the international application as originally filed the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the claims:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19)

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the drawings:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

 the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

 contained in the international application in written form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages _____ the claims, Nos. _____ the drawings, sheets/fig _____5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).^{**}

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1 - 6	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1 - 6	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1 - 6	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Document 1: JP 2000-233517 A (Funai Electric Co., Ltd.),
 29 August 2000, entire text; all drawings
 (Family: none)

Document 2: JP 09-309210 A (Samsung Electronics Co.,
 Ltd.), 2 December 1997, entire text; all
 drawings & US 5847728 A & CN 2275519 U & KR
 0131090 Y

The invention set forth in claims 1 to 6, of a maintenance mechanism of an inkjet printer, wherein a claw member for locking a sliding member to a base member during wiping operation by a wiper is slidably supported by a base member; a claw-depressing projection which comes into contact with the claw member and presses the claw member downwards is provided to the sliding member; a lock releasing projection which comes into contact with the claw member as a result of carriage movement when the printing starts after the wiping operation is complete, releases the locked state of the sliding member by the claw member, and returns the sliding member to the predetermined position of the base member, is provided to the bottom part of the carriage; and the lock releasing projection depresses the claw member with the return operation of the sliding member and the projection comes

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into contact with the claw member, and the claw member is depressed to a position below the lock releasing projection, thereby avoiding mutual interference between the claw member and the carriage, is not disclosed in document 1 or 2, and would not be obvious to a person skilled in the art.